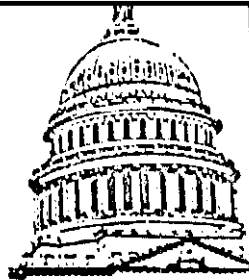


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THE CIA -- HAS IT PENETRATED AMERICAN SOCIETY MORE THAN IT HAS PENETRATED COMMUNIST SOCIETIES?

A young man from Seaside, Oregon, named Phil Sherburne, is a University of Oregon graduate who was president of the National Student Association in 1965-66. His effort to sever NSA dependence on the Central Intelligence Agency for much of its budget has produced another round in the old argument of whether ends justify means. In recent weeks, every day has brought new stories of unions, student groups, academic and literary associations, even church organizations, receiving secret CIA money through dummy foundations.

The defense of secrecy in financing these activities is a curious one. It holds that the decision to finance these "fronts" was made in the period of 1952 to 1954, an era dominated by McCarthyism. It contends that in many contests around the world where Communists were in competition with non-Communists, it would have been impossible to persuade Congress to appropriate funds to send our representatives abroad at public expense. So in the interest of assuring that liberals, even leftist Americans, who could better compete with Communists than could conservatives, would be on hand at international meetings, CIA slipped them the money.

The odd thing about this official defense, however, is that long after the demise of McCarthy, the programs not only continued, but were expanded. In these years, 70 and 80% of the NSA budget, which included extensive civil rights activities in this country, came from CIA. A wildly mismanaged bookstore venture by University of Chicago students lost \$140,000, a tab picked up by CIA.

We also have learned that the U. S. Information Agency has long had a secret program of causing books to be written and published in the United States. Part of this subsidy also came from CIA, all unknown to the buyer and reader.

I have been appalled and astonished that in the latter days of the Eisenhower Administration, and in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, conspiratorial thinking at the highest level dominated these decisions. It is difficult to understand why Congress could not have been asked openly to provide money to finance the international convention of the National Education Association; to pay U. S. unions to train journalists, and to teach unionists in Latin America, Africa, and Asia how to organize workers and how to bargain with employers.

But secrecy begat easy money, and more easy money begat more secrecy. The necessity to explain the purpose, to educate public opinion, and to obtain permission was circumvented by funding these things secretly. Conservative members of Congress who say now they knew about these CIA activities and approved of them, did not have to explain to their constituents what they were supporting, and why.

This is all rationalized on the ground of "intelligence-gathering." But little of it had to do with gathering information. These were operational programs, not unlike some we finance openly through foreign aid. Some, like American Friends of the Middle East, took the form of propaganda at home more than propaganda abroad.

Senator Yarborough of Texas has introduced an amendment to the International Education Act, authorizing the Office of Education to finance openly certain student and academic activities abroad. I support it. I am anxious that we put an end to the secrecy and hypocrisy of CIA sponsorship of such programs. Likewise, I believe the international activities of unions should be financed through the Department of Labor, or AID or the State Department, and the public should know about it. CIA funding has made a farce of our claim that unlike Communists, Americans who represent private U. S. organizations abroad act as free agents and not as minions of their government. We should stop making false claims, and compete with Communism on our own ground of being what we claim to be. We should not fall victim to lame excuses about "fighting fire with fire," when water is still the best defense against fire.

"...Considerable attention was given to restrictions which each country places on exports of the other. The United States delegation particularly commented upon Mexican policies regarding the issuance of import licenses for manufactured goods, spare parts, and certain agricultural products, particularly apples, pears, fresh oranges, fresh and canned strawberries, and other canned fruits and juices.

"It was felt that in some cases Mexican import licenses have been issued in a dilatory fashion and they have been withheld arbitrarily sometimes during the best marketing seasons in Mexico and at times when imports from the United States would not displace Mexican production and sales. This criticism was cited as coming particularly, but not entirely, from American growers of apples and pears.

"Members of the American delegation also emphasized the growing political tension in the United States to improve relations with Mexico and me on our trip to Asia in 1965.

Dr. Turpin has a similar clinic in Dampao, South Vietnam, where he seeks to bring the blessing of modern medicine to a few of the suffering people of Vietnam.

This program is sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The Jaycees of Beaverton, Oregon, have been especially active in raising money to support it.

Sincerely,

Wayne Morse

